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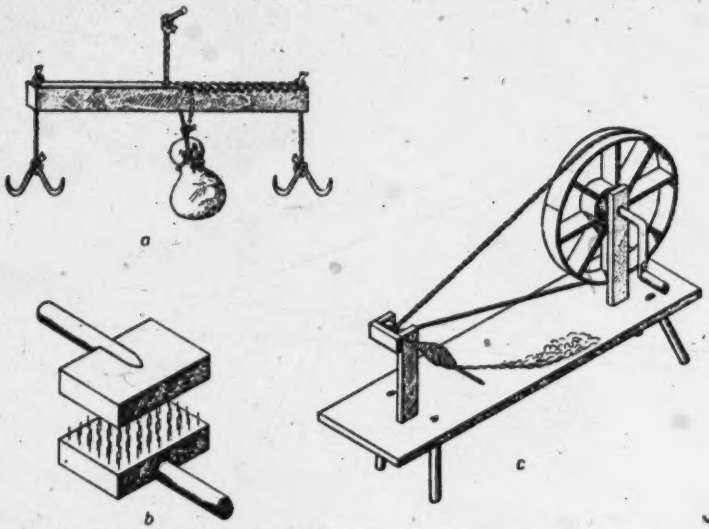

FIGURE 6.—Spinning wheel and associated implements. *a*, Scales for weighing wool; the weight is a 1-pound stone; length of the beam is 14½ inches. *b*, Carders used to prepare wool for spinning, about 9 by 12 inches; the wires are merely indicated schematically and actually are much more numerous. *c*, Home-made spinning wheel; the wheel is turned with the right hand, the wool fed into the thread with the left hand; the spinner stands to operate the apparatus.

[p. 36a]

1: Beals E-5 (1940-1941) 1946 NU34 Tarasco NU34
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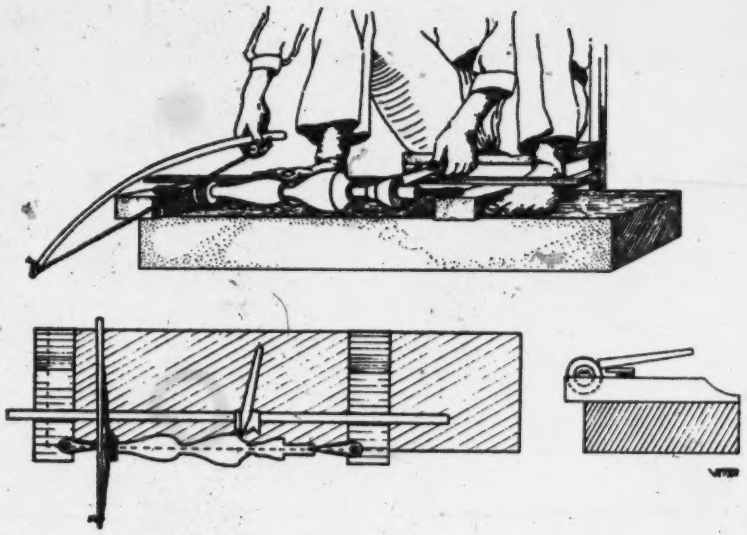

FIGURE 9.—Lathe driven by a bow. A candlestick, about 12 inches long, is in process of manufacture. The two bottom views show the position of the cutting tool.

[p. 43a]

1:Beals E-5 (1940-1941)1946 NU34 Tarasco NU34
Sierra Tarascans

335 carpenter. Inasmuch as a detailed description of houses, house use, and house furnishings has already been published, no discussion is included here (Beals, Carrasco, and McCorkle, 1944).

322 402 [874] As mentioned previously, one man in Cherán manufactures chocolate beaters of simple type. They are made of madroño wood and are turned on a crude lathe (fig. 9). Power is provided by a bow with the string wrapped about the shaft of the lathe. The left hand is used to work the bow. The lathe rests on the ground, and both the bare feet and the right hand are used to manipulate the tools. The tools and technique are characteristic of Paracho, where a wide variety of turned wood products is made, including bowls, vases, candlesticks, chocolate beaters, salt and pepper shakers, and chessmen.

322 438 Broom handles are made by one family, as already mentioned. Pine logs are split into long staves, which are whittled into a roughly round shape with a knife. The entire product

1:Beals E-5 (1940-1941)1946 NU34 Tarasco NU34
[p147a] Sierra Tarascans

256 arrangement guarantees an adequate number of customers each day a mill is operating.

256 The miller must have some mechanical knowledge as well as capital and business ability.

402 Most of the mills are driven by an old automobile engine converted to operate on gas produced by a charcoal burner, usually made from an old oil drum. A belt drive transmits power and reduces the speed. Usually the owner (or manager in some cases) supervises the motor and the gas burner and an employee or member of the family feeds the maize into the mill and collects the charge, 1 centavo a kilo. In one case a woman occupied this post, but most of the mill operators are men.

Except for a few very poor families, everyone in Cherán now patronizes the mills. Each mill serves from about 330 to 360 customers a day.

407 *Wheat threshing.*—One wood-burning steam-driven threshing machine has operated in Cherán for several years. The machine is stationary (although it could be moved, it is too cumbersome to do so), and the customers bring their wheat to the machine. Two tenders, who feed the wheat into the machine, and a water carrier are required besides the operator. Firewood is purchased. Exclusive of interest on the investment and repairs, the operator nets about 25 pesos a day above operating expenses.

In 1940 a smaller gasoline-driven thresher, which could be moved from house to house, was said to have made considerable inroads on the trade. However, as the bulk of the Cherán wheat is still threshed by hand, there seemed to be ample business for both threshing machines.

338 *Painters and plasterers.*—This is a rare occupation followed by two or three men on a part-time basis. Only a minority of the houses of adobe or stone are plastered, and few of them are painted. The pay is fairly good, but the best worker probably does not put in more than 90 days' work a year. Brushes and stencils are used in painting.

333 *Masons.*—As the house owner normally provides all materials, the mason sells only his services. His equipment is a trowel, hammer, a board frame for holding mud mortar, a shovel for mixing mortar, an ax to cut poles for

243 407 433 434 *Threshing machine:*

Equipment:

Woodburning steam-driven threshing machine. Cost unknown, but probably several thousand pesos.

Charges for wheat threshing (a *carga*)	$2.50
Capacity daily	12 *cargas*
Income daily	$30.00

Operating expenses (daily):	
Wood	$2.00
Hired labor	2.00
Water carrier	1.00
Total	$5.00

Operating season (June 20 to Oct. 25, period worked in 1940 estimated):	Days
June	8
July	25
August	25
September	20
October	15
Total	93

Total business (1,116 *cargas*, estimated, at $2.50 a *carga*)	$2,790
Net profit annually before deducting repairs, wages for owner, interest and depreciation, approximately	$2,365

Comment: Probably the threshing machine has the largest peso volume of business of any enterprise in Cherán, although one of the *nixtamal* mills probably is a close second. The threshing machine also represents the greatest capital investment except for some individual investments in real estate. High repair costs probably reduce the true net profit considerably, while depreciation in this case cannot be ignored. Add to this the time and skill required of the owner, and it is probable that this is not the most profitable enterprise in town even though it be the largest. Certainly, other families of farmers or combination farmers and storekeepers show more outward signs of prosperity.

402 433 434 256 *Nixtamal mills:*

Cost of equipment	$300.00–$1200.00
Costs daily:	
Gasoline and oil for gas engines	2.00
Charcoal for producer gas equipped engines	1.20
Labor, 1 man	.80–1.00
Gross income at 1 centavo per kilo of maize ground (daily)	13.00–15.00
Net income (daily)	10.00–12.00

Comment: Mills work only half time; i.e., by agreement only half the mills operate any one day, so net income should be halved. Even so, this gives a sizable income, but probably the life of the equipment is short. Cost of repairs and the replacement of grinding stones

256 402 433 434 ($9 every few weeks) is also an item not included. Some engines are equipped to saw wood, when not driving mills; pine logs are cut in lengths suitable for splitting into box lumber. The blocks are shipped in trucks to Uruapan, where they are split to make crates for shipping fruit. No data on costs or sales were secured on this minor business.

305 434 *Barbers:*

Prices:

Haircuts:	
Weekdays	$0.15
Sundays	.20
Shaves	.10–.15
Number of "jobs" daily:	
Except Saturday	4–8
Saturday	10–15
Income (a week)	$6.00–$7.50

Comment: Average income is probably under $1.00 a day. One of the two full-time barbers (with the smallest income) supplements this by card playing. One barber works only on Sundays and makes shakes during the week.

533 434 *Musicians:*

Wages:

For 2-day fiesta	$10
For wedding	2
Number of engagements (individual cases):	
(a) 6 fiestas, 15 weddings, in 9 months	90
(b) 5 fiestas, 5 weddings, period unknown	60
(c) 10 fiestas in 1 year	100

Comment: The musicians obviously do not make a living from music. All have other sources of income; some are farmers, storekeepers, barbers, etc.

338 434 *Painters, plasterers:*

Daily wage	$1.75–2.50

Comment: Painters and plasterers have only occasional demands for their skills. Only a few stone or adobe houses are plastered, and fewer still are painted. Most jobs are by contract.

529 433 434 *Billiard parlors:*

Equipment	$1,500–$1,700
Rent (monthly)	10–20
Charge per game	.05

Comment: No estimate of the amount of business was received. It is evident, though, that the enterprise is profitable, to judge by dress and other characteristics of the owners.

253 433 434 *Butchers:*

Prices paid for beeves on hoof	$80–$150
Prices reported paid at wholesale for beef weighing:	

4: West K-5 (1946) 1948 NU34 Tarasco NU34
[P. 68 c]

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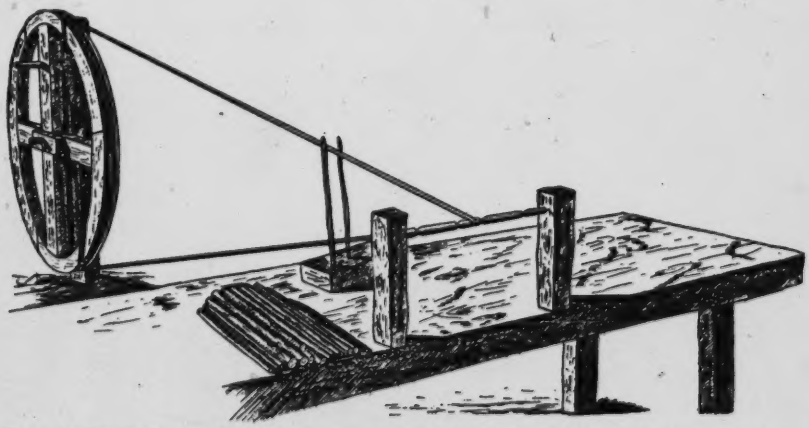

FIGURE 6.—The wheel lathe, used by most Tarascan cabinetmakers for turning wood. The wheel ranges from 2½ to 4 feet in diameter and is usually turned by a small boy.

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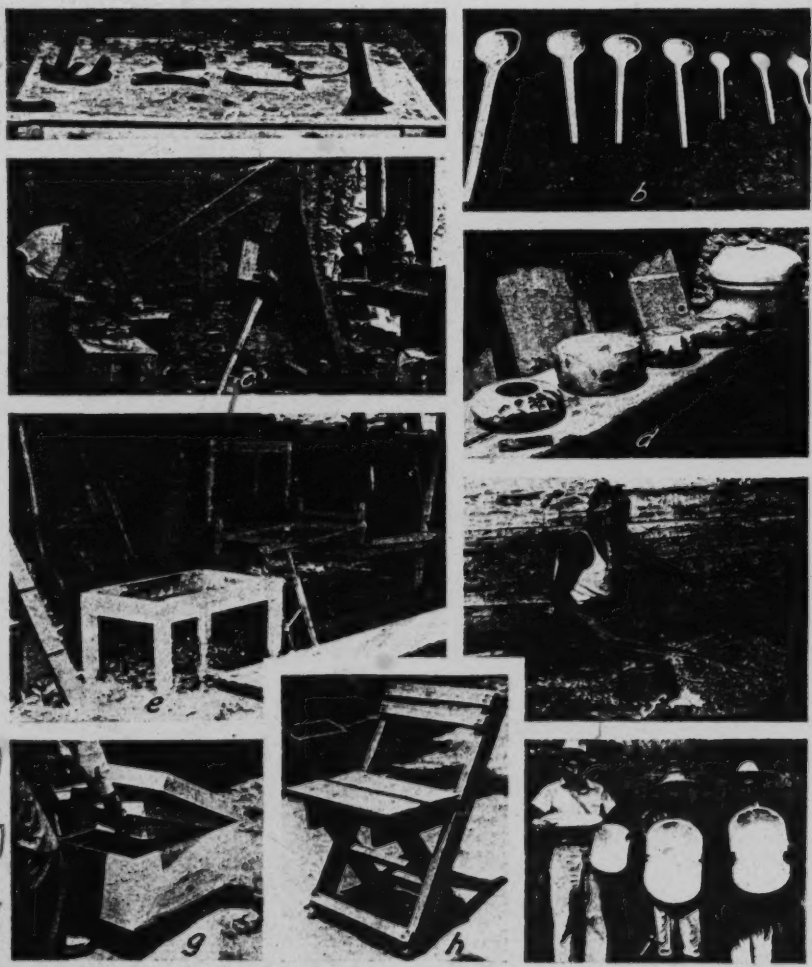

PLATE 13.—Woodwork. a, Grooving tools, Paracho. b, Wooden spoons and ladles, Paracho. c, Modern electrically powered lathe shop, Paracho. d, Turned objects made at Paracho. e, Cabinetmaker's shop in house lot, Cocupao. f, Making mahaches with the bow lathe, Paracho. g, Nest of wooden boxes, Cocupao. h, Small (3 feet high) tilting chair commonly made in Cocupao. i, Broken tools at Ihtzi.

[End-plate 13]